we will be able to do it within this financial year because the difficulty is that it is of 10 to 12 reels which is a very big one and costs a lot of money when we have to look after the others also. It is not true that we are not aware of the psyche of Assam because, Sir, a very well-known film has been given to Mr. Baruah himself which is regarding the 'Freedom Struggle-Contribution of Assam". It is in production under him. Three more are already there. In fact, in Assam, we have given a total of 34. I think, it is one of the highest averages so far as India is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increased equity participation by foreign companies

@*202. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow existing foreign companies to raise their equity participation in Indian companies to 51 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are its likely effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision contained in Para 39 B of the Statement on Industrial Policy, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24-07-1991, Government have laid down the procedure for increase in foreign equity upto 51 per cent in existing companies which already have some foreign equity holding. This facility is expected to promote technology transfer and increased marketing and financial support to existing companies. More importantly, it is expected to promote expansion and diversification of activities into high priority areas, thereby leading to increased production, promote exports and greater employment opportunities.

@Previously Starred Question 162, transferred from the 3rd December, 1991.

Scheme to ameliorate the living conditions of poor rural women

*205. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched or proposed to launch a scheme to ameliorate the living conditions of poor rural women;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the benefits likely to be derived from the scheme; and

(d) what is the machinery proposed to be evolved to monitor the working of the scheme in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a scheme for improvement in the living conditions of poor rural women namely 'Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas' (DWCRA) since 1982-83, as a Sub-scheme of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Groups of oment belonging to the families identified to be living below the poverty line are provided with income generating activities to supplement their family income, At present, 240 districts in the country are covered. It is expected that women belonping to the families below the poverty line would benefit from additional income, better standard of life through access to other support services and expowerment through group interaction. Government also propose to introduce Indira Mahila Yojana, detailed features of which have not yet been decided.

(d) A machinery to promote and monitor DWCRA has been set up at the State, District and field level. At the State level, a Deputy Secretary with some